INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	25X ²
SUBJECT	Journalistic Activities	DATE DISTR.	17 March 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO. RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	
DATE ACQUIRED	This is UNEVALUATED Info	ormation	25X ²
	SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APP	RAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIV	/E.
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- The East German Foreign Office is planning to organize a world congress of journalists in the spring of 1955. A preparatory committee was to be set up about the end of January. Gerald Götting, secretary of the CDU, urged that he should be appointed to this committee, along with Schaber, editor in chief of the CDU paper Neve Zeit.
- 2. The Russians have shown considerable interest in Dr. Ernst, the Nazi mayor of Strassburg, who was recently expelled from France. They think he has many valuable contacts. At the suggestion of the Russians, transmitted by the East German Foreign Office, Ernst intends to publish a newspaper or magazine, which is to have financial support from the Foreign Office.
- 3. Upon the initiative of Johannes R. Becher, Minister for Culture, a new daily paper similar to the defunct <u>Nacht-Express</u> is to be published (presumably in Berlin), although such a paper is regarded by the Communists as lacking in seriousness. In the recruiting of an editorial staff, negotiations are to be undertaken with Rudolf Kurtz, former editor in chief of the <u>Nacht-Express</u>, and with some editors of the <u>Tägliche Rundschau</u>.

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